

SENATE BILL 119

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 1, Part 3 and Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 5,
relative to teacher evaluations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Teaching Evaluation Enhancement Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the period at the end of the subdivision and adding the following:

; however, nothing in this subdivision shall require an LEA to use student achievement data based on state assessments as the sole factor in employment decisions.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d)(2), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

(E) For teachers with access to individual data representative of student growth as specified in subdivision (d)(2)(B)(ii), the following provisions shall apply:

(i) In the 2015-2016 school year, the evaluation criteria identified in subdivision (d)(2)(B)(ii) shall be adjusted so that student growth data generated by assessments administered in the 2015-2016 school year shall account for ten percent (10%) of the overall evaluation criteria identified in subdivision (d)(2)(B).

(ii) In the 2016-2017 school year, the evaluation criteria identified in subdivision (d)(2)(B)(ii) shall be adjusted so that student growth data generated by assessments administered in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years shall account for twenty percent (20%) of the overall evaluation criteria identified in subdivision (d)(2)(B).

(iii) In the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, the student growth component of the evaluation criteria shall be determined under subdivision (d)(2)(B)(ii).

(iv) For the 2015-2016 through 2017-2018 school years, the most recent year of student growth data shall account for the entire percentage of growth data required in a teacher's evaluation if such use results in a higher evaluation score.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d)(2)(B), is amended by deleting subdivision (vi) in its entirety and replacing it with the following language:

(vi) Notwithstanding subdivisions (d)(2)(B)(i) and (ii), for teachers without access to individual growth data representative of student growth as specified in subdivision (d)(2)(B)(ii), thirty percent (30%) of the evaluation criteria shall be composed of student achievement data with fifteen percent (15%) of the evaluation criteria based on student growth data as represented by TVAAS, or some other comparable measure, if no such TVAAS data is available; however, in the 2015-2016 school year, no more than ten percent (10%) of the evaluation criteria shall be based on TVAAS data.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(d), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

(7) Pursuant to state board of education rules and policies, an LEA may utilize either the state board adopted model plan for the qualitative portion of teacher evaluation or an evaluation model that has been proposed by the LEA and approved by the state board of education. Evaluation models approved by the state board of education may, with local board approval, be utilized in any LEA.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-503(4), is amended by adding the following language between the “,” and the word “and” at the end of the subdivision:

provided, however, that a teacher who has met all other requirements for tenure eligibility but has not acquired an official evaluation score during the last one (1) or two

(2) years of the probationary period due to an approved extended leave; transfer to another school or position within the school district; or invalidated data due to a successful local level evaluation grievance pursuant to § 49-1-302(d)(2)(A) may utilize the most recent two (2) years of available evaluation scores achieved during the probationary period to meet the provisions of this subdivision (4);

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-504(a)(2), is amended by deleting the “.” at the end of the subdivision and adding the following language:

; provided, however, that a teacher who has met all other requirements for tenure eligibility but has not acquired an official evaluation score during the last one (1) or two (2) years of the probationary period due to an approved extended leave; transfer to another school or position within the school district; or invalidated data due to a successful local level evaluation grievance pursuant to § 49-1-302(d)(2)(A) may utilize the most recent two (2) years of available evaluation scores achieved during the probationary period to meet the provisions of this subdivision (a)(2).

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.